



Date: 02/10/18

Subject: Manhasset Bay Protection Committee electronic newsletter – February 2018

This month's newsletter is dedicated to stormwater and the important role we all play in keeping stormwater from being polluted.

We thank you in advance for your support and help as everyone plays a role in protecting Manhasset Bay. Please share our newsletter and ask others to sign up at our web site: <http://www.manhassetbayprotectioncommittee.org/>

Only Rain Down The Drain
Stormwater, Storm Drains and Outflow Pipes
ManhassetBayProtectionCommittee.org

What is “Stormwater:”

Stormwater is any precipitation (rain and snow melt) that travels across the ground and is not absorbed by soil. As it travels, stormwater, now known as runoff, picks up pollution in its path, such as bacteria from pet and bird waste, nutrients from fertilizers, and petroleum products from roadways. This runoff, which is considered non-point source pollution, travels directly to the surface waters of Manhasset Bay and is not treated.

The Importance of Storm Drains:

As you walk your part of the Manhasset Bay [watershed](#) you may notice storm drains cut into the curb and meant to remove stormwater quickly from streets and surrounding areas. These drains are meant only for stormwater to move through and are not trash receptacles. Anything that is poured down or placed into these drains leads to our beautiful Manhasset Bay or into groundwater. Do not place pet waste, leftover lawn fertilizer, used oil, food scraps, trash, or anything else into these storm drains. Pet waste can be disposed of in your trash; lawn fertilizer can be swept up and kept to be applied later. Used oil can often be returned to stores that sell motor oil. Certain food scraps can be composted and the rest can be thrown out in your regular garbage. Some of our storm drains are marked with a stainless steel medallion (like the one pictured here) that says “no dumping, drains to bay” to serve as a reminder that only rain should go down the drain. Additionally, last year the Town of North Hempstead painted sidewalks with water reactive paint (like the picture below) as another reminder of the importance of keeping everything but rain out of the drain. A PSA on storm drains can be found on the Town’s website at: <http://www.northhempsteadny.gov/stormwater>



Stormwater Regulations:

As part of the Clean Water Act, the US Environmental Protection Agency established the National/State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program, which, in New York, is managed by the State Department of Environmental Conservation (SPDES). Within this program is the Phase II SPDES General Permit for Municipal Separate

Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). Any small municipality who discharges stormwater to a receiving body of water is required to apply for this permit and work to reduce stormwater pollutants to the “maximum extent practicable.” All the members of the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee are on the MS4 permit and, among other things, complete an annual report due in June of every year. The Committee assists the individual members by completing some of the requirements of the MS4 on behalf of the members and preparing sections of the required report.

**REMEMBER WHAT GOES DOWN THE STORM DRAIN
GOES DIRECTLY INTO MANHASSET BAY
THAT INCLUDES CIGARETTE BUTTS, OIL, WEED
KILLER, CUPS, PLASTIC LEAVES, FERTILIZER
AND MORE**



Recommendations for keeping stormwater clean:

Listed below are some examples of simple changes to everyday activities that will have a positive impact on Manhasset Bay, even in areas seemingly far from the Bay.

- Clean up after pets: dog (and even cat) waste that is left on the ground can be picked up by rain water and transported to Manhasset Bay, increasing bacteria counts.
- Do not put anything down a storm drain, ever. This water is not treated, but instead flows directly to Manhasset Bay.
- Call the Town's 311 number to inquire about hazardous material collections going on throughout the year.
- Clean up spills of fertilizer and pesticides: like pet waste, these spills can be picked up by rain water and transported to Manhasset Bay, where they can have adverse impacts on water quality.
- Don't feed ducks, geese, or other birds: feeding birds tends to concentrate them in an area, leading to more bacteria entering the water from their droppings.
- Don't fertilize before a rain storm and consider getting your lawn tested to learn how much fertilizer it needs. Also consider leaving grass clippings in place after mowing: they break down quickly and naturally fertilize the soil.
- Connecting downspouts to the sewer system is illegal. Remove these hook-ups and notify the Town or Village where you live if you see someone else doing this. Consider alternatives, such as rain gardens, for your downspout discharge.
- Review your County/Town/Village's annual stormwater report: as part of the requirements of the Phase II SPDES (MS4) permit, all municipalities are required to publically post their annual reports and receive public feedback.
- Volunteer: Though not directly related to stormwater, the State is in search of volunteers to monitor alewife. There is a training session at the Manhasset Public Library on March 1st from 7 to 8pm.

Visit <http://www.manhassetbayprotectioncommittee.org> for more information.

Who We Are:

The Manhasset Bay Protection Committee is an inter-municipal organization focused on addressing water quality and coastal issues in Manhasset Bay with a coordinated, watershed-level approach. The Committee has 15 member municipalities: Nassau County, the Town of North Hempstead, and 13 Villages who all voluntarily entered into an inter-municipal agreement. The Committee's goals are to protect, restore, and enhance Manhasset Bay so as to insure a healthy and diverse marine ecosystem while balancing and maintaining recreational and commercial uses.

Manhasset Bay is a vital resource which impacts the local and regional economy. The Manhasset Bay Protection Committee remains committed to implementing projects and activities that facilitate an improvement in water quality toward the swimmable, fishable goals of the Clean Water Act.

The Committee members are:

Nassau County
Town of North Hempstead
Baxter Estates
Flower Hill
Great Neck
Kensington
Kings Point
Munsey Park
Manorhaven
Plandome
Plandome Heights
Plandome Manor
Port Washington North
Sands Point
Thomaston



We want to hear from you!
Please send us any comments, questions, etc. on this newsletter or the Bay

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